

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/707,569

Examiner

CUONG H. NGUYEN

Applicant(s)

RUPP, JEFFREY D.

Art Unit

3661

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 1/14/2008.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 9-19; they are renumbered as claims 1-11; formal drawings are accepted.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.


Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


CUONG NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is the answer to the communication filed on 1/14/2008. Claims 9-19 are elected for examination; claims 1-4, 6-8, and 20-21 are withdrawn; and claim 5 is canceled.

Drawings

2. Formal drawings are accepted on 1/14/2008.

Examiner's amendment:

3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Withdrawal claims 1-4, 6-8, and 20-21 would be canceled for this allowability. Should the changes and additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

- Claims 1-8, and 20-21 are now canceled.

Allowable subject matter

4. The pending invention is about a safety method by using a single vision sensor, which detects at least one object and generates at least one object detection signal, has a position with coordinates on a vehicle. A controller coupled to that vision sensor generates a safety system signal in response to coordinates and at least one object detection signal; said vision sensor is coupled to a signal processor for detecting objects for controlling motor vehicle adaptive cruise control, collision warning or countermeasure actuation, e.g. airbag or seatbelt pretension actuation, lane departure warning, lane keeping, and windscreen clearing etc. for an advantage of performing safety system operations traditionally performed through use of multiple vision sensors;

enabling utilization of single vision sensor while providing accurate measurements for improved sensing system performance; enabling determination of object parameters without assuming actual size of target to estimate or determine range of target; minimizing number of sensors and sensing system components within the vehicle, and minimizing a sensing system complexity and manufacturing and maintenance costs.

Conclusion

5. Claims 9-19 are allowed; they are renumbered as claims 1-11.
6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CUONG H. NGUYEN whose telephone number is 571-272-6759 (email address: cuong.nguyen@uspto.gov). The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30 am - 5:30 pm on Mon. – Tues. and Thursday – Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, THOMAS G. BLACK can be reached on 571-272-6956. The Rightfax number for the organization where this application is assigned is 571-273-6956.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/CUONG H. NGUYEN/
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3661

REPLACEMENT SHEET
Application Serial Number: 10/707,569
Application Filing Date: December 22, 2003
Inventor: Jeffrey D. Rupp
Amendment Date: January 14, 2008

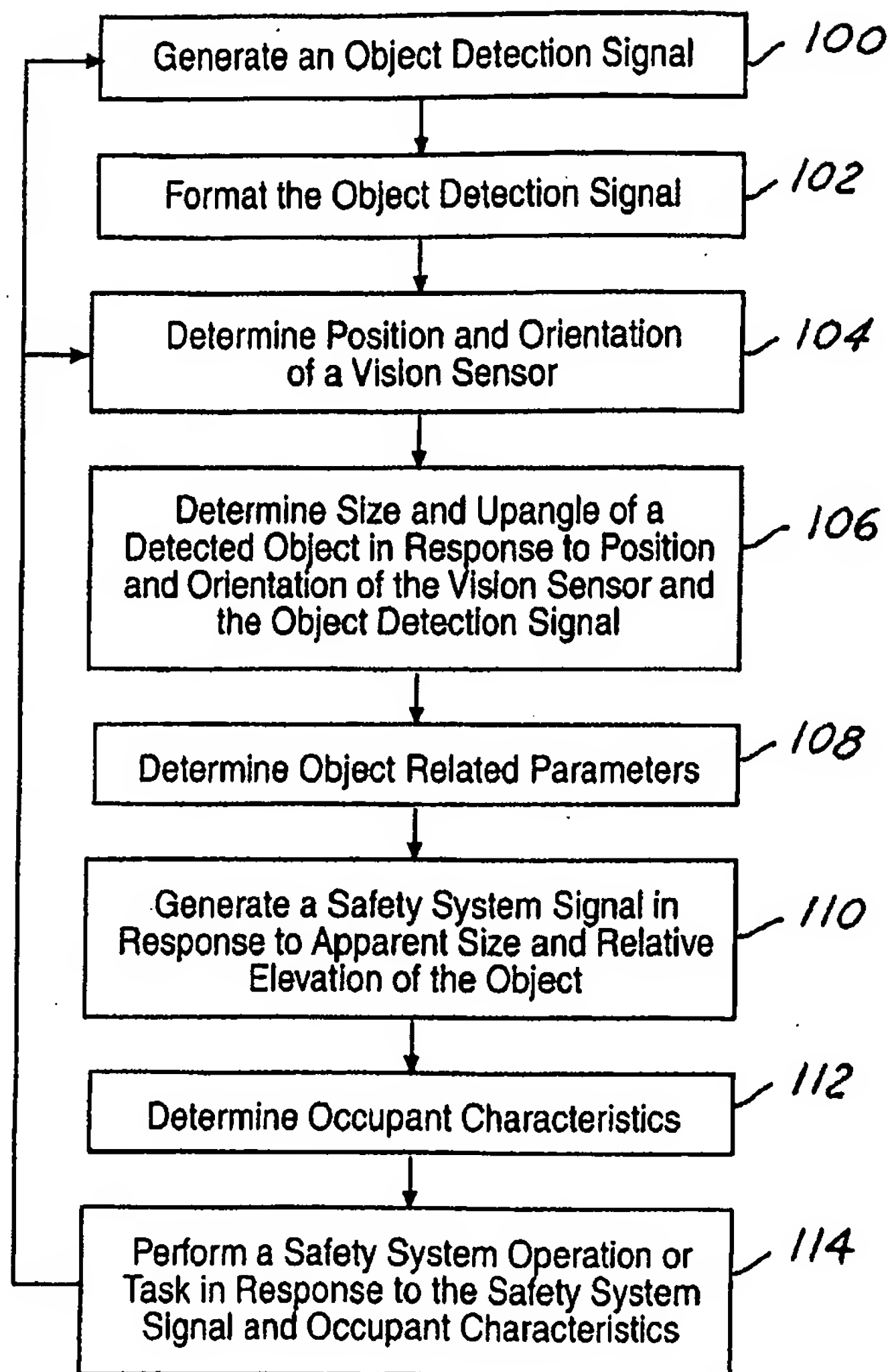


FIG.2

1/14/08

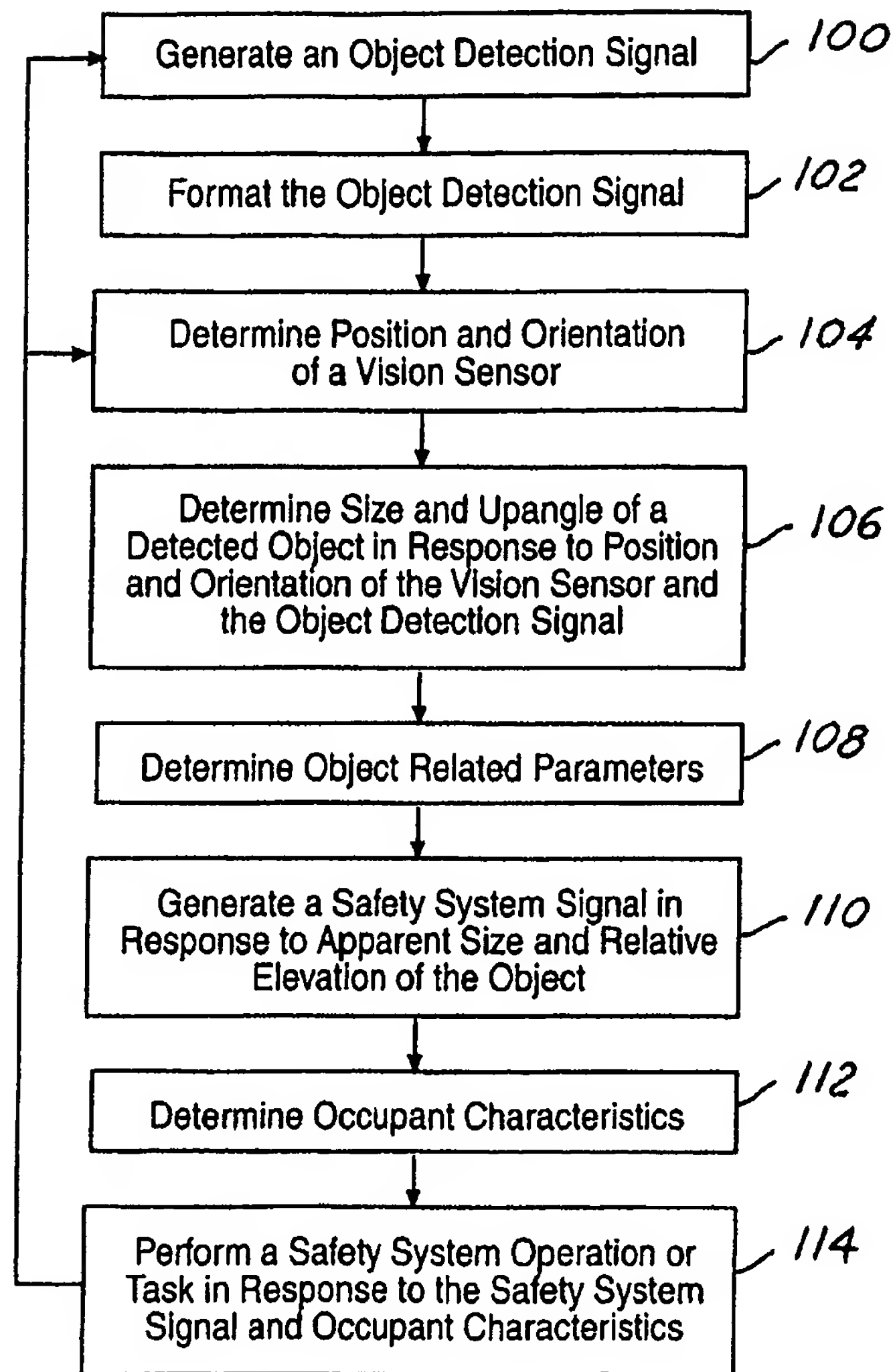


FIG.2